## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This present invention extends the mechanism for locating solution access information and then obtaining and implementing the correct solution for updating software programs. The user can communicate with one system on the network, tell it what the user is interested in, and then the system replies on a file by file basis where to locate the desired information. Thus, the user no longer has to register, e.g. in the environment variables, the individual paths for where a multitude of different applications find their additional related information on the network. According to the teachings of the present invention, a user will have to make basically zero changes to the system, and instead will automatically discover the name location of a server that is going to provide the user with the information associated with any user executable file.

In particular, one embodiment of the present invention includes a computer implemented method. The method includes querying a first server for a location of a second server containing information associated with a local file. The method further includes querying the second server for the information associated with the local file. The second server then provides the information associated with the executable. Other systems and methods are included within the scope of the present invention.

20

25

5

10

15

"Express Mail" mailing label number: <u>EL709305675US</u> Date of Deposit: <u>September 26, 2000</u>

This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

MS 142288.1